SUBJECT No. 113.

Reduction in the minimum area prescribed for coffee cultivation and of the *upset price* on coffee lands.

(1) Mr. V. Manjaiya, South Mysore Native Planters' Association.
(1) & (2) Messrs. T. Guru Rao, North Mysore Planters' Association; B. Sitaramaiya and C. Srinivasa Rao, Chikmagalur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(1) The prescribed minimum of 15 acres for coffee cultivation acts as a great hardship. Pattas cannot be obtained for smaller extents of land and the lands are sometimes subject to be sold for arrears due by others. The minimum may therefore be fixed at 5 acres.

(2) The upset price on coffee lands may be reduced from Rs. 10 to Rs. 5 an acre.

Mr. Guru Rao presented a memorial to the effect that the present condition of the coffee industry required such a relief and that Government should also take steps to encourage Native Planters to go in for rubber cultivation, and seeds, etc., should be distributed for the purpose.

Mr. Srinivasa Rao: The minimum had once been reduced to 5 acres but in the same year it was again raised ostensibly on the ground that the existence of these small bits of coffee estates between large estates would encourage theft of coffee. Many an agriculturist in the Kadur District cultivates coffee as a by-product by which he is able to pay his kandayam. By being required to take up 15 acres, he has to pay an upset price of at least Rs. 150 and spend another Rs. 150 before the coffee begins to yield. Instead of preventing coffee thefts the present restriction encourages thefts by depriving the agriculturists of employment.

Reply of Government.—Will be considered. The matter may be brought up before the Dewan when he next visits the locality.

SUBJECT No. 114.

Stone bandhs in place of mud ones.

Mr. C. Nagappa, Nagar Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Earthen bandhs are liable to be washed away by the rains, especially in malnad where the rainfall is very heavy, and the burden of repairing them annually falls upon the raiyats. Owing to the paucity of population in the malnad, even the cultivation work is being carried on by coolies from the British Territories. Such being the case, it is very burdensome for land-holders to get the bandhs repaired every year. It is therefore requested that during the revision survey the earthen bandhs may be replaced by stones and the cost recovered from the raiyats.

Reply of Government.—Cannot be allowed as a general rule, as *pahani* stones are more easily removed than earthen bandhs.

SUBJECT No. 115.

Grant of lands containing small number of date trees.

Mr Kencharaya Setti, Arsikere Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Portions containing date trees unfit for tapping are also included in the date reserve list and are not given out for cultivation. There is no income to the Excise Department from these trees. Such lands may therefore be given out for cultivation.